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FROM:

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MESSAGE:

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March 27, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

Examiner Wanda L. Walker
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/579,938
Our File: TJW-00100

Dear Examiner Walker:

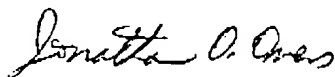
Thank you for taking the time to review this application. A first issue in this application is whether the cited references of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,817 to Mullen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,842,606 to Devito, U.S. Patent No. 6,109,482 to Briggs and U.S. Patent No. 4,311,017 to Reed et al., which are all directed to beverage containers are proper § 102 references to claims directed to a paint storage container which includes a plurality of paint storage compartments among other things.

A second issue in this application is whether the cited references are analagous art to claims directed to a paint storage container. The Field of the Invention in this application reads "[t]he present invention generally relates to paint cans and containers. More specifically, the present invention relates to a reusable paint container for storing, mixing and dispensing paint products."

If you have any further questions, comments or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP



Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No. 37,902

JOO:drd

Handwritten notes:
prior art
structure
prior art
prior art

Handwritten notes:
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